DRAFT Sexual Behavior Questions Version 5.00

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I. Introduction

There is a continued need for high-quality, questionnaire-based data to develop and evaluate HIV, STD, and TB prevention/elimination programs. Self-reported behavioral data can compliment incidence and prevalence surveillance data in monitoring and anticipating the course of an epidemic. Questionnaire-based data related to HIV/STD and TB prevention is collected in a number of settings including general population surveys, behavioral surveillance systems of high-risk and infected populations, and as part of intervention studies. However, the necessary integration of data derived from these systems is often hampered by a lack of comparability between data items intended to measure the same behavior or concept.

The HIV-STD Behavioral Surveillance Working Group was formed in the fall of 1997 to address the need for comparable data across various data systems by developing and promoting the use of common questionnaire items related to HIV/STD/TB risk and prevention. The HIV-STD BSWG seeks to coordinate and enhance existing data systems and methods, in order to provide data for use of planning and evaluating prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels. The core items offered here on Sexual Behaviors, as well as the Drug-Related Risk and HIV Testing core items, are the principal results of this effort.

The text proceeding the core items provide a synopsis of the purpose, scope, and current development status of the core items for sexual behavior. Interested readers are referred to Introduction to the Core Questions for a more detailed explanation of the rationale and methods used by the working group to produce the core items.

II. Purpose and Scope

Prevention planners and policy makers working at the national, state, and local level require timely, relevant, and representative HIV risk and preventive indicator data to develop rational and effective prevention programs and policies. There is wide consensus that the lack of coordination across questionnaire-based data collection systems for these indicators precludes these systems from providing the information required. The core question items were developed to address one aspect of the coordination effort; that of improving the comparability of data items that are intended to measure the same behavior or concept across systems. The purpose of the core question items then, is to promote standardization of key items across disparate data systems so that minimal data needs of prevention planners and policies makers can be addressed.

Behavioral (and other) indicators are currently collected at the general population, infected population, and high-risk population levels. General population surveys typically have strong sampling methodology and provide results that are generalizable to the total population. They can measure the impact of prevention programs on the general population, and can provide a baseline with which to compare high risk samples. However, they provide limited information on relatively rare risk behaviors, particularly among highrisk subgroups such as men who have sex with men and injection drug users. Surveillance of infected populations yields information on risk for infection acquisition and ongoing transmission, but do not provide information on atrisk, yet uninfected populations. Surveillance among high-risk populations fills this void, but is often dependent on convenience sampling, and therefore limits the degree to which the results can be generalized. The necessary integration of data derived from these systems is often hampered by a lack of comparability between data items intended to measure the same behavior or concept. Use of the core questions as a common standard would allow for integration, and thus vastly improve the quality and quantity of information produced.

The core question items are not intended to serve as a complete, "off the shelf" survey. Rather, they suggest: (1) a standard question and response format for items, and (2) only those items that are considered to address minimal data needs, or "core" items. The items offered here are considered the basic and necessary components to be included in questionnaire-based measures of sexual behavior at the three population levels.

To allow for comparison across all three surveillance levels, but address only the minimal data needs for each, two "tiers" of questions were developed. The first tier questions are considered the minimal number of questions to be used in all surveys. These questions are suitable for general population surveys, and thus do not include questions of high-risk behaviors that are relatively rare among the general population. The second tier questions include the first tier, as well as additional questions that obtain more detailed information about high risk behaviors that are relevant to high-risk and

infected populations. The additional items in the second tier are intended to address minimal data needs for high risk and infected populations. In the case of the Sexual Behavior measures, we've also included an "Alternate First Tier" that includes most of the First Tier questions, but allows for more detail on sexual behaviors with specific partners.

The core question items are intended to be serviceable across a broad range of surveys with various objectives, target populations, and data collection settings, while maintaining a sound methodology and addressing the identified minimal data needs. Even so, it is recognized that the questions are not capable of serving the specific purpose of every researcher. First, because the core questions address only minimal data needs, they consequently exclude an array of important questions and topics of interest to researchers. Second, the core items were developed to suit interviewer administration, and may need to be adapted for use in other settings (e.g., self-administered). It is also likely that the formatting (e.g., question order), or question wording may not suit the particular situation (e.g., for a jail or prison setting). It is also possible that only certain items from the second tier are relevant for the study. Therefore, researchers are encouraged to add additional questions of interest, extract relevant portions when necessary, change the format, and otherwise adapt the core questions to suit the unique purpose of their study.

We hope that persons conducting studies will be able to adopt the questions we recommend. We realize that in some instances researchers may find it necessary to use a different form of a question, for example in order to maintain a continuous time series. In those cases we would urge the researchers to adopt both questions – this would have numerous advantages, allowing for internal as well as cross-study comparisons, and maintaining time series. The small number of basic core questions adds little additional cost, especially in light of the many benefits.

III. Development and Status

The methodology employed by the working group to develop the core measures can be best described as a modified Delphi approach and is comprised of the following iterative steps: 1) identification of existing surveys, questions, and relevant behavioral elements; 2) creation of a survey database; 3) review of published data or analyses of existing available data; 4) discussion of draft core questions; 5) distribution of draft questions to internal and external consultants to obtain feedback; 6) cognitive testing; 7) inclusion of core questions in existing surveys to obtain pilot data; 8) redrafting of questions on the basis of pilot data and feedback; 9) dissemination and support of core questions; 10) ongoing evaluation, feed-back, and adaptation of questions.

All of the core measures are developed and continually revised by this

iterative process. The sexual behavior core measures offered here have undergone intensive review by external consultants, and have been revised based on the feedback received. Further refinements of the questions will be made based on additional feedback, results of cognitive testing, and the results of pilot testing. Many people have responded to previous drafts of the Sexual Behavior measure. A number of suggestions were incorporated in the current draft. Thank you for all of your (on-going) feedback!

The working group identified and adopted the "critical event" concept to guide the development of all the core question items. Using the critical event approach, questions refer to the behavior of the respondent the last time the event occurred. The advantages of this approach include minimal recall bias and that it allows for simple categorical (yes/no) responses. The disadvantage of using critical events is the potential of losing detail on less likely events. There again, researchers are encouraged to use additional questions that obtain the data of interest.

FIRST TIER QUESTIONS

	Version	date:	9/1	/99
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The next questions are about your sexual behavior. By sex we mean oral, vaginal, or anal sex, but NOT masturbation. When we talk about condoms, we mean both male as well as female condoms.

1.	During	the pa	st 12	month	s, have	you l	had se	x?
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Yes [1]

No [2] *SKIP to END* Refused [9] *SKIP to END*

[NHSDA]

2. During the past 12 months, with how many people have you had sex?

Number [...]

Don't know / Not sure [enter 777] Refused [enter 999]

[BRFSS; NHSDA]

3. During the past 12 months, have you had sex with only males, only females, or with both males and females?

Only males	[1]
Only females	[2]
Both males and females	[3]
Refused	[9]

[NHSDA]

4. Now, thinking back about the last time you had sex, did you or your partner use a condom?

Yes	[1]
No	[2]
Refused	[9]

[NHSDA; BRFSS; YRBS]

FIRST TIER QUESTIONS

- 5. I'm going to read you a list. When I'm done, please tell me if any of the situations apply to you. You don't need to tell me which one.
 - * You have used intravenous drugs in the past year
 - * You have been treated for a sexually transmitted disease or venereal disease in the past year
 - * You tested positive for having HIV, the virus that causes AIDS
 - * You have had more than one sex partner in the past year
 - * During the past 12 months you have given or received money or drugs in exchange for sex

Do any of these situations apply to you?

[1]
[2]
[9]

[BRFSS, adapted]

ALTERNATE FIRST TIER QUESTIONS

The next questions are about your sexual behavior. By sex we mean oral, vaginal, or anal sex, but NOT masturbation. When we talk about condoms, we mean both male as well as female condoms.

1. D t	ıring the	past 12	months.	, have you	had	sex?
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Yes	[1	1	
-----	----	---	--

No [2] SKIP to END Refused [9] SKIP to END

[NHSDA]

2. During the past 12 months, with how many people have you had sex?

Number [...]

Don't know / Not sure [enter 777] Refused [enter 999]

[BRFSS; NHSDA]

3. During the past 12 months, have you had sex with only males, only females, or with both males and females?

Only males	[1]
Only females	[2]
Both males and females	[3]
Refused	[9]

[NHSDA]

- 4. I'm going to read you a list. When I'm done, please tell me if any of the situations apply to you. You don't need to tell me which one.
 - * You have used intravenous drugs in the past year
 - * You have been treated for a sexually transmitted disease or venereal disease in the past year
 - * You tested positive for having HIV, the virus that causes AIDS
 - * You have had more than one sex partner in the past year
 - * During the past 12 months you have given or received money or drugs in exchange for sex

ALTERNATE FIRST TIER QUESTIONS

	Do any of these situations app	ply to y	ou?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
	[BRFSS, adapted]		
The	e next questions are about sex	with a r	nain partner.
5.	_		sex with someone who you consider to be your who you feel committed to above anyone else?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 8 SKIP to QUESTION 8
	[NHSDA- Adapted]		
-	ou had more than one main pa nk of the main partner you had		during the past 12 months, we would like you to ex with.
6.	Is this person a man or a won	nan?	
	Man Woman Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
7.	Now, thinking back about the condom?	e last ti	me you had sex, did you or your partner use a
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
	[NHSDA; BRFSS; YRBS]		

ALTERNATE FIRST TIER QUESTIONS

8.			sex with someone who is not your main partner your main partner at the time?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to END
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to END
	the next series of questions, to vas not your main partner.	hink ba	ack to the last time you had sex with someone who
9.	Is this person a man or a wor	nan?	
	Man	[1]	
	Woman	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
10.	Now, thinking back about the condom?	e last ti	me you had sex, did you or your partner use a
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
	[NHSDA; BRFSS; YRBS]		
***	*********END OF ALTER	NATE	FIRST TIER QUESTIONS***************

The next questions are about your sexual behavior. By sex we mean oral, vaginal, or anal sex, but NOT masturbation. When we talk about condoms, we mean both male as well as female condoms.

1.	During the pa	st 12 months, have you had sex?
	Yes	[1]

SKIP to END No [2] Refused SKIP to END [9]

[NHSDA]

During the past 12 months, with how many people have you had sex?

Number [...]

Don't know / Not sure [enter 777]

Refused [enter 999]

[BRFSS; NHSDA]

During the past 12 months, have you had sex with only males, only females, or with both males and females?

Only males [1] Only females [2] Both males and females [3] Refused [9]

[NHSDA]

4. During the past 12 months, has a doctor or other health professional told you that you had a sexually transmitted disease, or STD, for example, herpes, gonorrhea, chlamydia, genital warts?

[9]

Yes [1] No [2] Don't know / Not sure [7] Refused

[HITS]

5.	•	en told by a doctor of other health professional that you or that you have AIDS?	u were
	Yes	[1]	

[2]

[7]

[9]

[RBA, adapted]

Don't know / Not sure

No

Refused

6. During the past 12 months, have you given drugs in exchange for sex or received drugs in exchange for sex? By sex we mean vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Yes	[1]
No	[2]
Refused	[9]

[NHSDA]

7. During the past 12 months, have you given money in exchange for sex or received money in exchange for sex? By sex we mean vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Yes	[1]
No	[2]
Refused	[9]

[NHSDA; Some surveys have combined questions 6 and 7, for example: In the past 12 months, have you given or taken money or drugs in exchange for sex? (NHIS-Supplement)]

^{**}If respondent is female: SKIP to SECOND TIER QUESTION 26**

[MALE RESPONDENTS ONLY]

The next questions a	are about sex	with a main	partner.
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8.	In the past 12 months have you had sex with someone who you consider to be your main sex partner, that is a partner who you feel committed to above anyone else?					
	Yes	[1]				
	No		SKIP to QUESTION 42			
	Refused	[9]				
	[NHSDA- Adapted]	1				
-	ou had more than one nk of the main partner	_	during the past 12 months, we would like you to ex with.			
9.	When was the <u>first</u> ti	me you had sex	with your main partner?			
	/(me	onth/year)				
10.	When was the <u>last</u> tir	ne you had sex	with your main partner?			
	/ (me	onth/year)				
11.	Is this person a man	or a woman?				
	Man	[1]				
	Woman	[2]				
	Refused	[9]				
** <i>I</i>	f partner is male (Ques	tion 11= 1), the	en SKIP to QUESTION 16			
12.	The last time you had your penis entered yo		main partner, did you have vaginal sex, where agina?			
	Yes	[1]				
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 14			
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 14			

13.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
14.	The last time you had sex w mouth touched your partner	-	main partner, did you have oral sex, where your na?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 16
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 16
15.	Was a barrier (dental dam,	plastic v	vrap, etc) used?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
16.	The last time you had sex we penis entered your partner?	•	main partner, did you have oral sex, where your?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 18
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 18
17.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
18.	•	•	main partner, did you have anal sex, where
	your penis entered your par	tner's a	nus (butt)?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 20
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 20

19.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No Defined	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
	**If main partner is female	e (Questi	on 11 = 2), then SKIP to QUESTION 24 **
20.	The last time you had sex w partner's penis entered you		main partner did you have anal sex where your butt)?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 22
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 22
21.	Was a condom used? Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
22.	The last time you had sex w partner's penis entered you		main partner, did you have oral sex, where your?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 24
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 24
23.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
24.	The last time you had sex valcohol?	with you	r main partner, were you under the influence of
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	

[modified from NHSLS]

25. The last time you had sex with your main partner, had you been using drugs to get high before or during sex?

Yes	[1]	SKIP to QUESTION 42
No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 42
Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 42

[modified from NHSLS]

[FEMALE RESPONDENTS]

The next questions are about sex with a main	partner.
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26	In the past 12 man	the have you had	say with sameone who you consider to be you
20.	-	•	sex with someone who you consider to be you who you feel committed to above anyone else?
	Yes	[1]	
	No		SKIP to QUESTION 60
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 60
	[NHSDA- Adapte	ed]	
27.	When was the <u>first</u>	time you had sex	with your main partner?
	/(month/year)	
28.	When was the <u>last</u>	time you had sex	with your main partner?
	/(month/year)	
29.	Is this person a ma	n or a woman?	
	Man	[1]	
	Woman	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
** I j	f partner is female (Ç	Question 29 = 2), t	then SKIP to QUESTION 36**
	The last time you he your partner's pen	•	main partner, did you have vaginal sex, wher agina?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 32
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 32

31.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
32.	The last time you had sex win partner's penis entered your	-	main partner, did you have oral sex, where your?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 34 SKIP to QUESTION 34
33.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
34.	The last time you had sex wiyour partner's penis entered		main partner, did you have anal sex, where nus (butt)?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 36 SKIP to QUESTION 36
35.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
36.	The last time you had sex wi your partner's mouth touch	-	main partner, did you have oral sex, where vagina?
	Yes No	[1] [2]	SKIP to QUESTION 38

	Refused	[9] SECON	SKIP to QUESTION 38 D TIER QUESTIONS
37.	Was a barrier (denta	al dam, plastic v	vrap, etc) used?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
If p	artner is male (Questi	on 29 = 1), then	SKIP to QUESTION 40
38.	The last time you ha your mouth touched		main partner, did you have oral sex, where vagina?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 60
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 60
39.	Was a barrier (denta	al dam, plastic v	vrap, etc) used?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
40.	The last time you ha alcohol?	d sex with your	main partner, were you under the influence of
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
[m o	odified from NHSLS]		
41.	The last time you ha high before or during		main partner, had you been using drugs to get
	Yes	[1]	SKIP to QUESTION 60
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 60
[m 0	odified from NHSLS]		

[MALE RESPONDENTS ONLY]

	• •	questions are	1 4	• 4 1			,	4	•	4
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I HU HUAU	SCLICS OF	questions ar	anoui sca	. *******	Someone	WIIU I	o, wao i	ioi vou	ı manı	pai uici.

42.	In the past 12 months, have you had sex with someone who is not your main partner or whom you did not consider to be your main partner at the time?				
	Yes	[1]			
	No	[2]	SKIP to END		
	Refused	[9]			
	the next series of questio vas not your main partner		ick to the last time you had sex with someone who		
43.	When was the <u>first</u> time	you had sex	with this partner?		
	/ (month	ı/year)			
44.	When was the <u>last</u> time y	you had sex	with this partner?		
	/ (month	n/year)			
45.	Is this person a man or a	woman?			
	Man	[1]			
	Woman	[2]			
	Refused	[9]			
** I J	f partner is male (Question	a 45 = 1), the	en SKIP to QUESTION 50**		
46. The last time you had sex with this partner, did you have vaginal penis entered your partner's vagina?		,			
	Yes	[1]			
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 48		
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 48		
47.	Was a condom used?				
	Yes	[1]			
	No Defined	[2]			
	Refused	[9]			

48.	The last time you had sex with this partner, did you have oral sex, where your mouth touched your partner's vagina?			
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 50 SKIP to QUESTION 50	
49.	Was a barrier (dental dam, p	lastic w	rap, etc) used?	
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]		
50.	The last time you had sex with this partner, did you have oral sex, where your penis entered your partner's mouth?			
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 52 SKIP to QUESTION 52	
51.	. Was a condom used?			
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]		
52.	2. The last time you had sex with this partner, did you have anal sex, where your penis entered your partner's anus (butt)?			
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 54 SKIP to QUESTION 54	
53.	Was a condom used?			
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]		

^{**}If partner is female (Question 45 = 2), then SKIP to QUESTION 58.**

54.	The last time you had sex w partner's penis entered you	-	partner did you have anal sex where your butt)?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 56
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 56
55.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
56.	The last time you had sex w partner's penis entered you	_	partner, did you have oral sex, where your ?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to END
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to END
57.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	SKIP to END
	No	[2]	SKIP to END
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to END
58.	The last time you had sex w	ith this j	partner, were you under the influence of alcohol?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
[mo	dified from NHSLS]		
59.	The last time you had sex w before or during sex?	vith this	partner, had you been using drugs to get high
	Yes	[1]	SKIP to END
	No	[2]	SKIP to END
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to END

[modified from NHSLS]

[FEMALE RESPONDENTS]

	• •	4 •	1 4	• 4 1	1 • /		4
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T HC HCXL	SCLICS OF	UUCSLIUIIS AI	C ADOUL SCX	. WILLI SUILICULIC	. WHU 18/ WAS HU	t vuui illaili	vai uici.
	001100 01	9			, ,, , ,, 	- ,	P-00- 00-

Yes	[1]	
No	[2]	SKIP to END
Refused	[9]	SKIP to END
1. When was the <u>first</u> ti	me you had sex	x with your main partner?
/(m	onth/year)	
2. When was the <u>last</u> tin	me you had sex	with your main partner?
/(m	onth/year)	
3. Is this person a man	or a woman?	
Man	[1]	
Woman	[2]	
Refused	[9]	
*If partner is female (Qu	nestion 63 = 2),	then SKIP to QUESTION 70.**
4. The last time you had partner's penis enter		partner, did you have vaginal sex, where y
Yes	[1]	
No		SKIP to QUESTION 66
Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 66
~ ***	•	
o. Was a condom used?		
Yes	[1]	
5. Was a condom used? Yes No Refused		

66.	The last time you had sex	with this 1	partner, did you have oral sex, where your
00.	partner's penis entered yo	-	, ,
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 68
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 68
67.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
68.	The last time you had sex partner's penis entered yo	_	partner, did you have anal sex, where your butt)?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 70
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 70
69.	Was a condom used?		
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	
70.	The last time you had sex partner's mouth touched y	_	partner, did you have oral sex, where your na?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	SKIP to QUESTION 72
	Refused	[9]	SKIP to QUESTION 72
71.	Was a barrier (dental dam	ı, plastic v	wrap, etc) used?
	Yes	[1]	
	No	[2]	
	Refused	[9]	

^{**}If partner is male (Question 63 =1), then SKIP to QUESTION 74.**

72. The last time you had sex with this partner, did you have oral sex, where your mouth touched your partner's vagina?			1 / 1
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	SKIP to QUESTION 74
73.	Was a barrier (dent	al dam, plasti	ic wrap, etc) used?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
74.	The last time you h	ad sex with th	is partner, were you under the influence of alcohol?
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
[mo	dified from NHSLS]		
75.	The last time you he before or during see		nis partner, had you been using drugs to get high
	Yes No Refused	[1] [2] [9]	
[mo	dified from NHSLS]		
***	******ENI	OF SECON	D TIER QUESTIONS******************